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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Information on
Latvian Ports (piers and wharfs,

DATE DISTR. 17 July 1957

PROCESSING COPYwarehouses, hydrographic data,
and port security.

NO. PAGES 1

REQUIREMENT

DATE OF
INFO.

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PLACE &
DATE AC

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

Five reports containing miscellaneous information on Latvian port facilities
and operating procedures

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Port

1. Ventspils
2. Riga
3. Ventspils (two sketches included)
4. Ventspils (port plan included)
5. Riga

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
(Notes: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)																			

Piers: A pier ~~exists along the length of the pier~~ left side of the entrance to the port. 25X1
Ten ships of about 80-90 meters long can dock at the pier. The pier needs repairs from the entrance up to about the middle. The rest of it can be used.

CRANES

Att

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There are 7-8 electrically-operated cranes along the length of the pier. They move and revolve on iron wheels. They have a hoisting power of $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons. There is also an immobile crane at the interior of the port which has a hoisting power of 5 tons. It is not known what it is used for as it is not near the pier and not used for loading and unloading.

STOREHOUSES

They gather coal at the area to the left. There are also 1-2 large oil tanks in the depth of the port, on the left side. A Soviet 10000 ton freighter was unloading fuel here.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied to the ships by pipes which exist along the length of the pier.

RAILROAD NET: There is a common railroad track along the length of the pier.

SEARCHLIGHTS: There were searchlights near and on both sides to the port entrance. Very strong searchlights have been installed on each side of the KOLKASTRAGS Cape which search the open sea.

SILLO: A large SILO exists at the beginning of the port and to the left of the entrance.

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II - NAVIGABLES

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A dredge was at the right to the entrance and it was taking sand and mud and placing it on land. It was a self-operating dredge. It was about 3000 tons and it appeared to be new and of the latest type.

There were 2 - 3 tugs in port.

III - WARSHIPS

About ten minesweepers, torpedo boats, small destroyers (sic), and a pocket submarine were observed.

IV - MERCHANT SHIPS

There were 2-3 Soviet merchant ships

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V - MISCELLANEOUS

The depth of the port varies from 20-25 feet.

The area before the port is clear. There is a sunken ship yet there which can be seen.

The pilot station is built somewhat like a turret and it is at the right to the entrance to the port.

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I- PORT ORGANIZATION

Along the length of the Customs Quay, north of the Pontoon Bridge, one can easily dock 4 ships having a length of 80-90 meters.

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a) Cranes

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There are six cranes at the above mentioned quay. They revolve and move on iron wheels. The cranes have a hoisting power of about 2½ tons.

b) WATER SUPPLY

There are places all along the length of the quay where ships can be supplied water.

c) PILOT STATION

The Pilot Station is on the right of the entrance to the port.

II- MISCELLANEOUS

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The depth of the port next to the above mentioned quay is estimated to be 35 feet.

Only cameras are prohibited.

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1. Observer's ship was moored at Point 1 sketch ONE. [redacted]
Att 102. [redacted] SIX diesel electric portal cranes were standing on this wharf, each with a lifting capacity of 3 to 5 tons. For description of this type of crane, see sketch 2 in attachment.

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3. At point 2 sketch 1, two three-story buildings (four stories by U. S. system), which are connected with each other by a lower building.

B. Economic Data.

1. [redacted] a shipment of concrete reinforcing steel (about 100 tons) was stored.
2. In front of this shipment of concrete reinforcement steel lay a Russian ship of about 8,000 tons, loading boxes whose dimensions were 2 x 2 x 2 meters and 2 x 2 x 3 meters. In the boxes were transformer parts.

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Att [redacted]

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2. At point 3 sketch, a military lookout post with search light.
Every ship is illuminated by this post.

3.

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On the wharf
the military guard was placed, armed with a pistol. Shore
passes are still necessary if one wants to go ashore.

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Key to Sketch 1

1. Berth of ship.
2. Two three-story buildings.
3. Military lookout post.

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Key to Sketch 2

1. Berth of ship.
2. Place where motor vehicles were located.
3. Two three-story houses.
4. Russian ship.

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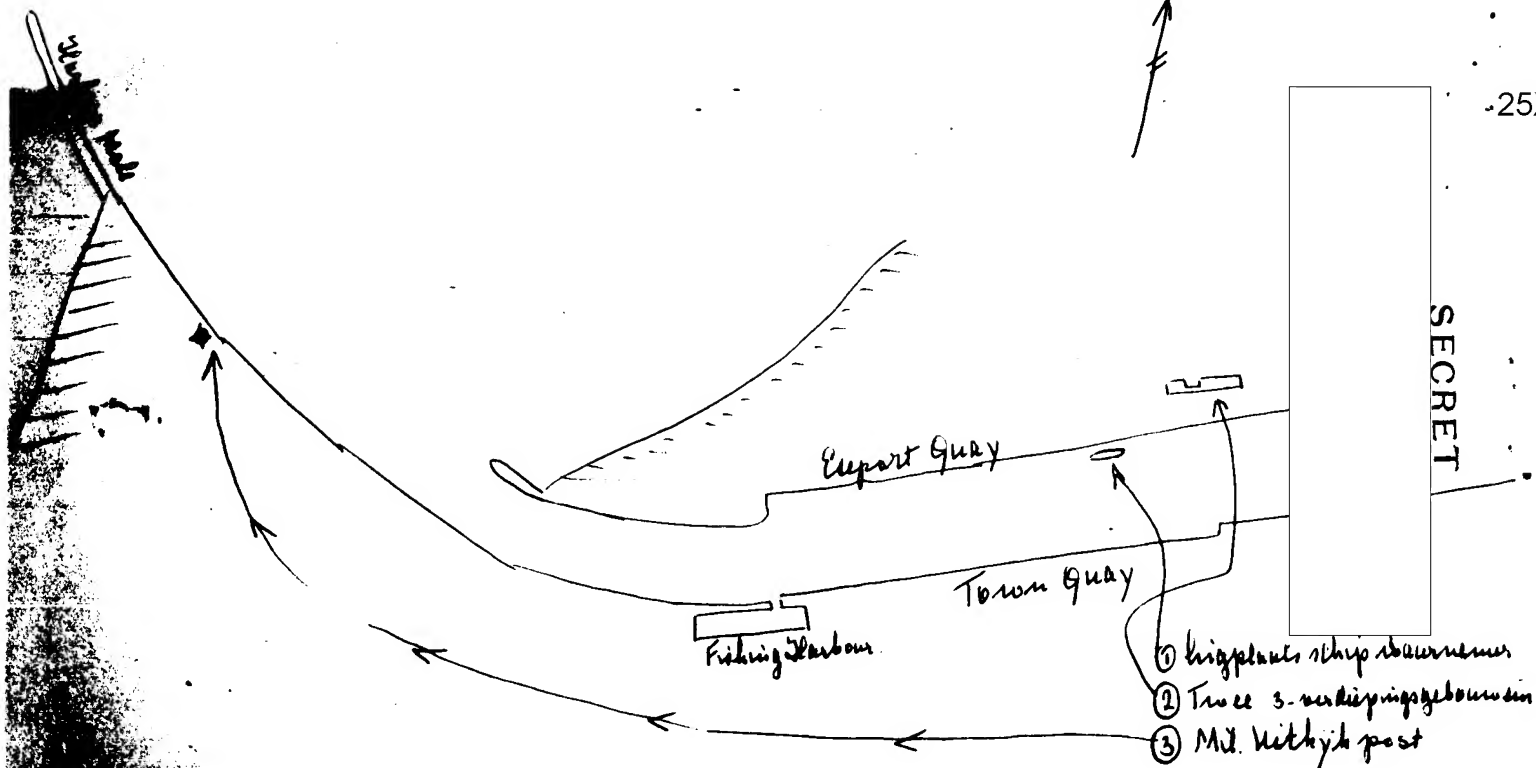
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Sketch 7.

Harbour of Ventspils / Russia



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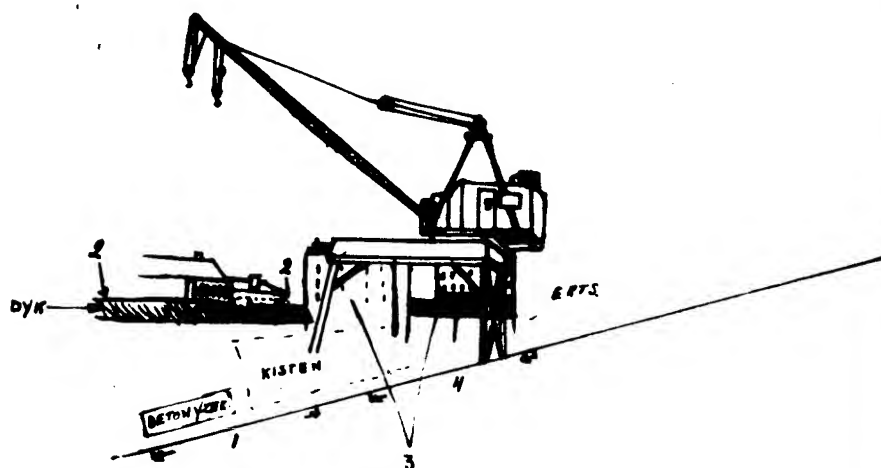
seleto 2.

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- 1 Ligplaats schip
2. Plaats waar motorvoertuigen zich bevonden
3. Twee drierdiepingshuizen
4. Russisch schip



2. Channel

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In the harbor two large dredges are stationed. They must maintain the channel at a depth of nine meters. In order to facilitate this there are dredged deep holes on both sides of the entrance between the piers, so that during storms and strong water movement they are filled with the sand first which otherwise would block incoming vessels. The piers were protected permanently by military guards, since a hole in the piers should cause the harbor's sanding up very quickly.

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3. At the southern pier abutment is a radar similar to one type Gage. Three soldiers guard the area but the territory is not closed off. One-two kilometers south of the southern pier abutment is a stretch of beach area three kilometers in length which is open to the local population.

4. In Ventspils there is a sea cadet school. There the youngest cadets are 14-15 years old. They wear blue uniforms with yellow stripes on their trousers.

5. Within the area of the base there are stored sweep equipment and buoys and beacons (prickar). In one other storehouse there were ammunition supplies. The repair workshop can only perform small jobs. Damaged ship bottoms cannot be repaired in the port. Modern salvage vessels with diving equipment and rescue stations are at the base.

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Ventspils Harbor. Technical Legend

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1. Radar similar to the Gage type
2. Picket for guarding of the pier area
3. Signal station
4. Barbed wire fence for naval base
5. Entrance with guard
6. Sweep equipment and buoys
7. Ammunition stores
8. Workshops
9. Wooden bridge which is only permitted to be travelled over by a vehicle (cart?) under control
10. Railway bridge

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COPY

1. Channel

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The depth in the channel was eight meters.

NO

obstruction or channel barrier upon the water be seen - Outside the export harbor dredging was being carried on by two dredges.

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2. Export harbor

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On the export quay eight cranes were counted, all electric driven modern types. In the export harbor a new large crane was being erected. The export quay is built of stone with a flooring (kajband) of wood.

3. Radar

A very large radar was observed northwest of the Spilve airfield, the latitude N 57°00'. It was composed of two large screens, one (spedstallid) and the other horizontal. It was similar to the

4. Shipyards

- a. Fishing boat shipyard: At the yard lay a floating dock with a lifting capacity of about 1000 deadweight tons. In it lay a patrol boat. On the slipways lay fishing vessels under construction. These were being built of wood and were of an estimated length of 12 meters.
- b. Milgravis shipyard: At the shipyard lay a floating dock with a merchant vessel estimated at about 8000 tons deadweight. Some large hulls on the beds could not be observed in detail.

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